

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 10 of First Extraordinary Session

By Langster

A RESOLUTION to recognize the members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church upon the ground-breaking of the congregation's new church.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pay tribute to those exemplary organizations, and their individual members, who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church congregation is most assuredly one such extraordinary organization deserving of praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Zion will have its ground-breaking ceremony on Easter Sunday, April 4, 1999, which will begin "Phase One" of its Project 2000; and

WHEREAS, the need for a new building was first realized at the church's old Jefferson Street location, where people were sitting in the choir loft, on the pulpit steps, and along the aisles; and

WHEREAS, the overcrowding on Jefferson Street prompted the growing congregation to move to the World Baptist Center, where it continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this magnificent growth, the leadership at Mt. Zion formed a Project 2000 committee to find a location for a bigger church building; and

WHEREAS, after months of praying, fasting, and planning, God blessed Mt. Zion with the purchase of a 129-acre site just north of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the purchase of the land, a three-phase strategy was developed to create and fulfill the congregation's dream of "An Oasis of Hope" in the Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Zion has over 130 years of steadfast commitment to the Nashville area; it is currently led by Pastor Joseph Warren Walker III, an anointed man of God that the Lord sent to the devoted congregation in 1992; and

WHEREAS, under Pastor Walker's astute leadership, Mt. Zion has experienced tremendous growth, warmly opening its arms to all who wish to dedicate their lives to God; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 1998, the congregation was presented a three-phase plan of what will become an even further outgrowth of Mt. Zion's ministry; and

WHEREAS, the first phase calls for the basic foundations of a new church building that includes the sanctuary, a kitchen/fellowship hall, classrooms, administrative offices, and the beginning of the recreational complex; and

WHEREAS, the second phase includes the first of many, wonderful amenities to better serve the spiritual needs of the community, such as the Mt. Zion Christian Academy, the completion of a full-scale recreational complex, and a senior center; and

WHEREAS, the third phase will include senior housing and a day care center, along with a strip mall/incubation center and "Hope Center" on Jefferson Street; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 1998, the congregation "kicked off" Project 2000 by dedicating the new land to the Lord; the program was hosted by Sister Rosa Lee Houston and welcomed numerous local men of God to join Mt. Zion; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Zion has been able to make generous contributions to Project 2000 through its Covenant Partners program in December, which gave the members of the congregation the opportunity to show their sacrificial and benevolent nature; and

WHEREAS, in January of 1999, members of Mt. Zion were able to view a model of their new building, which will be designed by the Thompson Architectural Group, P.C.; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Zion Baptist Church is truly one of the great community organizations and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our state and nation, and the members of this fine congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to the Christian community and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and congratulate the congregation at Mt. Zion Baptist Church upon the ground-breaking of the site of its new building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.